

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 MCE-00 DHA-05

/104 W

-----043490 100541Z /12

R 091317Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5560

INFO USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS DSBS Z

AMEMBASSY SANA

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ADDIS ABABA 5402

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR ET SO XW

SUBJECT: PMAC CONVOKES DIPLOMATIC CORPS

1. AMERICAN CHIEFS AMONG ADDIS DIP CORPS WERE CONVOKED BY PMAC VICE CHAIRMAN LT COL ATNAFU ABATE AFTERNOON SEPT 8 TO BE BRIEFED ON PRESENT SITUATION IN HORN OF AFRICA AS SEEN BY ETHIOPIANS. MEETING, WHICH LASTED ALMOST TWO HOURS, FOLLOWED SIMILAR BRIEFING FOR WESTERN EUROPEANS. AFRICANS WERE BRIEFED SEPT 2, AND WE UNDERSTAND EAST EUROPEANS SOMEWHAT EARLIER THAN THAT.

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2. BRIEFING COVERED MOSTLY FAMILIAR GROUND. AFTER LONG EXPLANATION OF CAUSES AND COURSE OF ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION, ATNAFU INFORMED US OF ETHIOPIAN RESPECT FOR CHARTERS OF UN AND OAU AND FOR NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT. ETHIOPIA IS COMMITTED TO LIVE IN PEACE WITH OTHERS AND CONDEMNS INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHERS BY ANY NATION. TODAY, ETHIOPIA IS ENCIRCLED ON THREE FRONTS -- NORTH,

EAST AND SOUTH. IN NORTH THERE TWO SECESSIONIST FORCES WHO HAVE JOINED FORCES -- ELF / PLF AND EDU. BOTH HAVE BEGGED ARAB COUNTRIES FOR ARMS AND MATERIEL. ARABS ARE GUIDED BY BAATH PARTY (CHAUVINIST) WHICH INTERESTED NOT IN HUMAN RIGHTS, BUT IN EXTENDING INFLUENCE OF ARAB WORLD. ARABS' DREAM OF CARVING OUT ARAB LAND IN ETHIOPIA, OF GAINING ANOTHER MEMBER FOR ARAB LEAGUE AND OF ASSERTING PRIMARY CONTROL OF RED SEA. IN PARTICULAR, EGYPT, SAUDI ARABIA, SUDAN, IRAQ AND SYRIA ARE COOPERATING FOR THESE PURPOSES.

3. IN SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST, SOMALIA HAS LAUNCHED OPEN AGGRESSION IN VIOLATION OF UN CHARTER AND PRINCIPLES OF NON-ALIGNMENT. SOMALIA HAS ALSO "BETRAYED TRUST" SINCE BOTH ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA HAVE FOLLOWED SOCIALIST PRINCIPLES. SOMALIA WAS AWARE ETHIOPIA HAD MOVED GOOD PART OF ITS FORCES TO FIGHT IN NORTH AND SOUGHT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SITUATION IN "NOW OR NEVER" EFFORT. BEFORE LAUNCHING ATTACK, HOWEVER, SOMALIA INFILTRATED SABOTEURS WHO DESTROYED DJIBOUTI RAILROAD AS RESULT OF WHICH DJIBOUTI NOW UNDERGOING IMMENSE SUFFERING. SOMALIA HOPED FOR QUICK VICTORY. THREE TIMES THEY STRUCK IN JIJIGA-HARRAR-DIREDAWA AREA AND THREE TIMES THEY WERE TURNED BACK BY ETHIOPIANS USING F5A'S, F5E'S AND AMERICAN-SUPPLIED ARTILLERY AND TANKS. DETAILS OF SOMALI LOSSES WERE PUBLISHED BY EPMG WHICH REPORTS HAPPENINGS WITHOUT CONFIDENTIAL

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EXAGGERATION. ETHIOPIAN ARMED FORCES ARE NOW DRIVING SOMALIS ACROSS FRONTIERS BOTH IN EAST AND SOUTH.

4. ETHIOPIA HAS CONFIRMED PARTICIPATION OF ARABS ALONGSIDE SOMALIS -- ONE IN DOWNED MIG, ANOTHER BEHEADED IN TANK AND THIRD CAPTURED "MEDICAL MAN." IT COMMON SIGHT TODAY IN MOGADISCIO TO SEE SUPPLIES BEING UNLOADED FROM ARAB SHIPS.

5. ETHIOPIA DOES NOT INTEND VIOLATE RIGHTS OF OTHER NATIONS, BUT WILL CERTAINLY DEFEND ITS OWN RIGHTS. ETHIOPIA HAS RECEIVED ARMS AND ASSISTANCE FROM FRIENDLY STATES IN PAST AND IN PARTICULAR IS DEEPLY APPRECIATIVE OF AND WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER ASSISTANCE FROM WESTERN EUROPEAN AND AMERICAN COUNTRIES. (HE APPARENTLY MENTIONED US SPECIFICALLY, BUT THIS DID NOT COME THROUGH IN THE TRANSLATION.) ETHIOPIA IS THANKFUL FOR GOOD RELATIONS WITH THESE COUNTRIES AND IT IS ETHIOPIAN WISH THAT THEY CONTINUE.

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6. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, ATNAFU SAID SOMALIA HAS
REJECTED OAU GOOD OFFICES AND RESORTED TO FORCE. ETHIOPIA
THEREFORE SEES NO OTHER RECOURSE THAN TO MEET FORCE WITH
FORCE, AND HAS NO DOUBT ENEMY WILL BE CRUSHED. ETHIOPIA,
HOWEVER, HAS NO INTENTION OF VIOLATING SOMALI TERRITORY.
ETHIOPIA DOES WELCOME OAU EFFORTS AND IS HOPEFUL PEACE-
FUL SOLUTION WILL BE FOUND IN OAU FORUM AND WITHIN OAU
FRAMEWORK. SOMALIA, HOWEVER, HAS REJECTED HAND OF BROTHER-
HOOD IN FAVOR OF DREAM OF GREATER SOMALIA, USING MYTH OF
WESTERN SOMALI LIBERATION FRONT ALTHOUGH IT EVIDENT TO
EVERYONE THAT IT SOMALIA'S ARMED FORCES THAT ARE OPENLY
WAGING WAR. ETHIOPIA BELIEVES SOMALIA WILL NOT BE AMENABLE
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TO PEACEFUL SOLUTIONS. RE SUDAN, ETHIOPIA WELCOMES EFFORTS
OF OAU TO FIND PEACEFUL SOLUTION.

7. COMMENT: BRIEFING APPARENTLY WAS VERY SIMILAR TO THAT GIVEN WESTERN EUROPEANS AND AFRICANS, AND CERTAINLY REPRESENTS IMPROTANT ETHIOPIAN INITIATIVE TO DRUM UP DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT. INDEED, ATNAFU PROMISED FURTHER BRIEFINGS AS THEY MAY SEEM DESIRABLE SINCE "ETHIOPIA HAS NOTHING TO HIDE." PRESENTATION WAS CALM, PEASURED, AND TOTALLY DEVOID OF HISTRIONICS. HE CLEARLY DID NOT EXPECT MUCH TO COME FROM EFFORTS AT NEGOTIATION AND GAVE NO INDICATION THAT ETHIOPIA WOULD ACCEPT ANYTHING LESS THAN COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL OF SOMALI FORCES FROM ETHIOPIAHASOIL.

8. AFTER DRAFTING ABOVE, BRITISH CHARGE CALLED TO COMPARE NOTES AND IT OBVIOUS WESTERN EUROPEAN MEETING COVERED SAME GROUND. DURING QUESTION PERIOD, ATNAFU WAS ASKED

WHETHER ETHIOPIA HAD BEEN GIVEN ANY ASSURANCES RE SOMALI INTENTIONS BEFORE MOVING TROOPS NORTH. ATNAFU REPLIED THAT "SOMALIA HAD INTIMATED TO SOME FRIENDLY COUNTRIES THAT THEY WOULD NOT ATTACK ETHIOPIA." ASKED WHETHER ETHIOPIA WOULD MAINTAIN POLICY OF RESTRAINING ACTION TO ETHIOPIAN TERRITORY, ATNAFU REPLIED THAT ETHIOPIA RESPECTED PRINCIPLE OF TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND IT WAS NOT ETHIOPIA'S INTENT IN

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ABOVE WHERE ATNAFU TOLD AMERICANS THAT ETHIOPIA HAS NO INTENTION OF VIOLATING SOAMLI TERRITORY IN RESPONSE TO SIMILAR QUESTION).

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC CORPS, MISSION CHIEFS MEETINGS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Document Number: 1977ADDIS05402
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Line Count: 198
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Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
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Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
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Review Content Flags:
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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TAGS: PBOR, ET, SO, XW
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4e112c4a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009